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Identical letters dated 24 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 23 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the Turkish aerial aggression against Iraqi villages on 15 August 2000, which resulted in the deaths of 40 citizens, injuries to dozens more and large-scale material damage. The Minister for Foreign Affairs hopes that the United Nations will assume its responsibilities and endeavour to put an immediate halt to the Turkish acts of aggression, which constitute a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and gravely endanger its security and the safety of its population.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-62375 (E) 290800 290800

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my previous letters concerning Turkish attacks on Iraq, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that on 15 August 2000 Turkish fighter planes bombed the villages of Lulan, Khaznah and Khunera in the Dukan Dam area. This iniquitous attack resulted in the deaths of 40 citizens and inflicted various injuries on dozens of other innocent civilians. The bombing also caused large-scale damage to the property of Iraqi citizens forming part of our Kurdish people in the area, as well as damage to public property.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq vehemently protests at this criminal act of aggression perpetrated by the Turkish forces, causing death or injury to innocent Iraqi citizens, and requests you to intervene with the Turkish Government and to call upon it to desist from these attacks and practices, which are contrary to the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and good-neighbourly relations.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq also categorically rejects the flimsy arguments and excuses adduced by Turkey to justify these repeated acts of aggression, since the claim that it is pursuing elements that threaten Turkish national security is no justification for its continuation of this aggressive policy, which is totally at variance with its alleged concern for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq places full international responsibility on the Turkish Government for these repeated provocative acts of aggression.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, while reserving its right to claim reparation for the damage arising from this heinous crime, hopes that the United Nations will assume its responsibilities under the Charter and endeavour to put an immediate halt to these acts, which constitute a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and gravely endanger Iraq's security and the safety of its population.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq